

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated July 13, 2005, the Examiner rejected the application under 37 C.F.R. 1.67(a). The Examiner rejected claims 69-87 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In response to these rejections, applicants have submitted a supplemental declaration and remarks, but no new matter has been added.

37 C.F.R. 1.67(a)

The Examiner rejected the application under 37 C.F.R. 1.67(a) because the declaration does not identify the city and either state or foreign country of residence of each inventor. The Examiner stated that the residence information may be provided on either an application data sheet or supplemental oath or declaration. Applicant respectfully submits a supplemental declaration providing this information. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 69-87 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 69-87 because the word "linker" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention.

The specification describes the linker group as a group of compounds that include, but are not limited to, carboxylic acid amides, carboxylic acid esters, and carbamates (page 23, lines 8-10). The specification also teaches how an anti-inflammatory drug can be released from a linker via hydrolysis (page 34, lines 20-51). The specification further teaches that the rate of hydrolysis of a drug from a linker, for example a carboxyl ester, will be slowed dramatically by increasing the degree of branching and/or increasing the number of carbon atoms in the linker chain (page 35, lines 1-4). These teachings in combination make the definition of linker and the requisite degree obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection under U.S.C. § 112 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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